

CELL PHONE RECYCLING

FACT SHEET

In the United States alone, an estimated 500 million cell phones have been retired, meaning they are unused in someone's home or in the trash. Most of those phones end up in a kitchen drawer collecting dust, causing literally billions of dollars to go to waste. By partnering with Cellular Recycler, the NCOA has developed a way to make the most of used cell phones. Now you can collect used cell phones as an easy fundraising program and at the same time help the environment by keeping phones out of our nation's landfills. Cell phone recycling is easy—all you have to do is ask!



How do I get started?

Cell phone collection is probably one of the easiest fundraising programs you'll participate in. Most cell phone users don't know what to do with their used cell phones and will be happy to donate their phones to a good cause. All you have to do is ask!

- ▶ Ask your local cell phone store to gather phones from customers
- ▶ Hold a drive at your church
- ▶ Set up a collection at a local business, school or office
- ▶ Ask for used cell phones from friends and neighbors

What do I do with collected phones?

Once you have collected more than 50 phones, go to www.cellularrecycler.com/ncoa to print a pre-paid UPS shipping label. Follow the instructions on the web site to properly pack the phones, print a packing slip and ship the phones for free via UPS. If you have collected less than 50 phones, keep on collecting. With over 500 million used cell phones in the U.S., it won't be long until you get there!

How do I get paid for phones?

Once you have sent in your collected phones, you will get a check for the phones total value within 21 days. Ninety percent of the proceeds go directly to you and your local senior center. Ten percent goes back to the NCOA to help continue new and innovative ways to provide fundraising and support senior center initiatives across America. You will receive a detailed statement with your payment, and the NCOA will receive a monthly statement of all collections.

Does collecting used cell phones really make a difference?

Absolutely. There are over 500 million used cell phones in the U.S. alone, and phones are worth up to \$30, depending on the make and model. Old phones can help you provide meals on wheels, care giving support, health promotion activities and life-long learning.

What if I get other cellular parts, like chargers and batteries?

Only used cell phones will result in funds for both your office and the NCOA. However, other parts can be recycled and kept out of landfills. We recommend asking for phones only so your hard work pays off for your organization.

What happens to the phones?

Collected phones that can't directly be re-used are recycled for the precious metals in the US according to EPA standards. Phones that are destined for re-use are sold around the world to be refurbished and sold back into global markets. During the refurbishment process the memory is flashed to erase all personal data. However, we always recommend that you clear out any sensitive data and remove your SIM card before you recycle your phone.

Are cell phones dangerous when thrown in the garbage?

Yes. Cell phones contain harmful materials like lead and cadmium that are released as phones break down in landfills. These materials can cause cancer and a range of reproductive and developmental disorders even when the materials are released in small quantities, such as leaching into our soil and drinking water from phones buried in landfills.

What do I do if my team requires additional support tools?

Go to www.cellularrecycler.com/ncoa to print additional support tools, like fact sheets and posters.